

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Amendments to the claims are as indicated in the listing of all claims, that follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of providing improved control of quench rate when producing a heat treatable metal product comprising the ordered steps of:

- (a) providing an ingot of a heat treatable metal alloy;
- (b) rolling the ingot to a flat product;
- (c) removing material from the product to achieve a shape near-net to a desired final shape;
- (d) solution heat treating and quenching the product;
- (e) stretching the product to achieve the desired final shape; and
- (f) aging the product.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the metal alloy is an aluminum alloy.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises machining the product to achieve the near-net shape.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the aluminum alloy is selected from the group consisting of AA series 2XXX, 6XXX and 7XXX.

5. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the flat product is in the F temper.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the final product is a component of an aircraft.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the component is a wing panel.
8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein step (c) comprises machining the near-net shape of a skin and stiffening members in the wing panel.
9. (withdrawn) A heat treated metal component produced according to the method of claim 1.
10. (withdrawn) The heat treated metal component of claim 9, wherein said product is a component of an aircraft.
11. (withdrawn) The heat treated metal component of claim 10, wherein the component is a wing panel.
12. (new) A method of producing a heat treatable metal product while reducing a processing time of said product, said method comprising the ordered steps of:
- (a) providing an ingot of a heat treatable metal alloy;
  - (b) rolling the ingot to a flat product;
  - (c) removing material from the product to achieve a shape near-net to a desired final shape;
  - (d) solution heat treating and quenching the product;
  - (e) stretching the product to achieve the desired final shape; and
  - (f) aging the product.
13. (new) A method of producing a heat treatable AA 7XXX aluminum alloy product comprising the ordered steps of:
- (a) providing an ingot of the heat treatable aluminum alloy;

- (b) rolling the ingot to a flat product;
- (c) removing material from the product to achieve a shape near-net to a desired final shape;
- (d) solution heat treating and quenching the product;
- (e) stretching the product to achieve the desired final shape; and
- (f) aging the product.

14. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein said alloy is AA 7085.